

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT:HUMAN RIGHTS IN GUINEA
REF: STATE 109326
1. FOLLOWING JUNE 8 NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE BY KATHLEEN
TELTSCH, SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORKS TIMES QUOTED FOR YOUR IN-
FORMATION.
QUOTE: RIGHTS GROUP TELLS U.N. GUINEA TORTURES PRISONERS.
A RIGHTS GROUP, IN A REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
ACCUSED GUINEA TODAY OF HAVING TORTURED AND MURDERED POLITI-
CAL PRISONERS AND APPEALED TO SECRETARY GENERAL KURT
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WALDHEIM TO INTERVENE "TO HALT THE REIGN OF TERROR INSTI-
GATED BY PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE."

THE COMPLAINT WAS PREPARED BY THE INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH HAS UNITED NATIONS CONSULTATIVE
STATUS, AND WAS SIGNED BY FOUR FORMER AMERICAN AMBASSADORS
TO CONAKRY. IT WAS ALSO ENDORSED BY OFFICIALS OF THE

ASSOCIATION OF THE BAR OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK.

COMPILED OVER A TWO-YEAR PERIOD FROM THE TESTIMONY OF FREED PRISONERS, THEIR FAMILIES, EXILED GUINEANS AND PHYSICIANS WHO TENDED THE FORMER CAPTIVES, THE 300-PAGE REPORT SAYS THAT IN THE LAST SIX YEARS "TERRORISM HAS BECOME COMMON-PLACE" IN GUINEA.

DECLARING THAT THOUSANDS REMAINED IN PRISON CAMPS, THE GROUP APPEALED TO MR. WALDHEIM TO INTERCEDE WITH PRESIDENT TOURE TO SPARE THEIR LIVES, PUT AN END TO TORTURE, GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF THOSE MISSING OR HELD, INITIATE FAIR TRIALS AND AMELIORATE THE PREDICAMENT OF CAMP INMATES.

ACCORDING TO THOSE WHO CONDUCTED THE INQUIRY, THE ABUSES WERE KNOWN TO AMERICAN AND FRENCH AUTHORITIES, BUT THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE OF MUCH OF A PROTEST, AT LEAST PUBLICLY, BECAUSE OF HEAVY WESTERN INTEREST IN GUINEA'S BAUXITE.

WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO REPORT FROM GUINEA, ACCORDING TO THE RIGHTS GROUP.

THE FOUR AMBASSADORS WHO SIGNED THE REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS WERE JAMES LOEB, WILLIAM ATTWOOD, ROBINSON MCILVAINE AND JOHN MORROW. THE REPORT WAS ALSO SIGNED BY JEROME SHESTACK, PRESIDENT OF THE RIGHTS GROUP; BY JACK GREENBERG OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, AND BY ADRIAN W. DEWIND AND OSCAR SCHACTER FOR THE BAR ASSOCIATION.

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RONALD E. PUMP, AN ATTORNEY AND THE MAIN RESEARCHER IN THE INQUIRY, SAID THE ATROCITIES BEGAN IN THE AFTERMATH OF AN ABORTIVE INVASION OF GUINEA IN 1970 LED BY PORTUGUESE TO HUMILATE PRESIDENT TOURE FOR GIVING SANCTUARY TO REBELS OF PORTUGUESE GUINEA, NOW INDEPENDENT GUINEA BISSAU. UNQUOTE.

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